



Permanent Mission
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 – Women, Peace and Security
Joint statement of OSCE Women Ambassadors and Representatives
Joint FSC-PC Meeting on the 20th of May 2020

Distinguished Chairpersons,

I would like start by thanking the high level guest speakers – Ms. Olta Xhaçka, Minister of Defence of Albania, Ms. Tetiana Kovalchuk, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender – for their thought provoking presentations.

I have the honour to deliver the following joint statement on behalf of the OSCE Women Ambassadors and Representatives: Andorra, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mongolia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia and Sweden. Representatives of the MenEngage network – from Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Latvia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom as well as the Secretary General and the Special Representative for Countering Trafficking in Human Beings – personally align themselves with this statement.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security set forth fundamental criteria for addressing conflicts and peace processes by promoting the protection and inclusion of women. Most importantly, it reaffirmed that women are powerful actors in preventing and resolving conflicts and in promoting sustainable peace.

In practise, Resolution 1325 is too often not given the attention it deserves. Many decision-makers still treat it as an afterthought.

Women peace advocates still have to struggle to get a seat at the table.

All too many countries reject the notion that gender equality has a decisive role to play in making our world more secure for everyone, men and women alike.

At the same time, the OSCE commitments encourage women's full and equal participation. They also recognize the significant role of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. These commitments have to be turned into practical work on the ground.

Distinguished Colleagues,

We want to be strong and clear: Women, Peace and Security makes peace processes more effective. It is thus essentially a peace and security issue, as much as an agenda to support women's rights. It is not a women and girls' issue alone. We also need full engagement of men and boys. We all can, and should, act as positive agents for change.

Together, we must shift the focus from rhetoric and good intentions to actual improvements in the full and effective participation of women in peace processes, and the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence.

Integrating a gender perspective into international affairs is a necessity. We would like to underline our strong commitment to gender equality. This includes further strengthening our efforts to ensure meaningful and equal participation of women at all levels of the security sector. We also have to overcome gender stereotypes and benefit from the important contribution of women in the military field.

We must step up our game collectively. This year marks the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. It is a good opportunity for us all. No woman and no girl should be left behind.

Responsibility for this lies with all of us.

I thank you.